A

COLLECTION

OF

LETTERS

Relating to the

East India Company,

And to a

FREE TRADE.

DEDICATED TO

ROBERT NUGENT, Esq;

MEMBER for

St. *MAWS*, *CORNWALL*.

[Price Six Pence.]

AC911.1754.C35

LETTERS

Relating to the

Eaſt India Company.

CONTAINING,

I. A Letter to Sir *J— L—*, on dividing Annuities from the trading Stock, and giving a Benefit to the Proprietors, inſtead of their Hazard of Loſs and Gain by Trading.

II. A Letter to the People of *Britain*, on the Importance of the *Eaſt India* Trade; where the Company trades to, and where they do not; how the preſent Trade may be extended; that the Proprietors and the Company ought not to be injur'd.

III. A Lettor to Miſs *A— S—*, one of the Proprietors of the *Eaſt India* Sock, Mutiny and Deſertion Bill, and the Heroes of *Leadenhall-Street*.

IV. A Letter to the Hon. ***.***, Eſq; one of the *** of ***, on the Importance of the *Indian* Trade, and of the Commodities of the Places where the Company does not trade to.

V. A Letter to — *B*—, Eſq; one of the Aldermen of the City of *London*; on the erecting *Madaraſs* and its Dependencies into a Colony, with a King's Governor, Council and Aſſembly; and St. *Helena*, and *Bombay*, in like manner, if ever the *Eaſt India* Company ſhould deliver them up to the Government.

VI. A Letter to *J. S.* Merchant in *Edinburgh*. In Anſwer to a Queſtion, Whether People from *Edinburgh* and *Glaſgow* may ſend Ships, and trade to the *Philippian* Iſlands and *Japan?*

LONDON:

Printed for W. OWEN, at *Homer*'s Head, near *Temple-Bar*. MDCCLIV.

TO THE

HONOURABLE

ROBERT NUGENT, Esq;

SIR,

THE great Figure you have made in defending the Interest of the People, makes me pay you this small Acknowledgement of Praise. It shou'd not be look'd upon as the Flattery of a Dedication, for you neither know me, nor, if you did, wou'd I receive Favours from you, but you are the Grachus *of the People of England*; *and all of us, amongst whom little I am one, ought to support you with their advise, with their Purses, and with their Hands, if Occasion requires*; *you are their Champion against* Monopolizing Companies, *we the People are to reap the Benefit, you only the Honour.* The Senate of Rome monopoliz'd *the Conquer'd Lands, the* Gracchi

Gracchi *demanded them to be divided amongſt all, by an Agrarian Law; the* Gracchi *were murdered by the Monopolizers, but the great* Caius J. Cæſar *revenged them. May you, Sir, with the Patriot Spirit of the* Gracchi, *and the Fortune of* Cæſar, *force the monopolizing Companies, to ſubmit to an Agrarian Law in Commerce, and give Liberty to the People of* Great Britain *and* Ireland, *to uſe their Induſtry, upon thoſe two thirds of the World which are now lock'd up by Monopolizers, under the Pretence of a Charter and Act, which many believe give them no ſuch Authority, but only gives them an excluſive Right under Limitation to thoſe Places where they trade, not to exclude others from thoſe where they will not trade. I am,*

SIR,

With profound Reſpect,

Your moſt devoted and obedient,

tho' unknown, humble Servant.

LETTERS

Relating to the

East India Company.

To Sir. J—— L——.

S I R,

THE glorious Stand you have made on many Occaſions, againſt thoſe who wou'd have robbed the Publick, particularly againſt the famous *Wood* and his Iron Monopoly, as well as the Directors of the *South Sea* Company, makes the honeſt Part of the Nation fix their Eyes upon you, they deſire your Advice, and are willing to follow it. Wiſe Meaſures were never more neceſſary than at this Time, when the laviſh Idleneſs and Luxury of our People, both great and ſmall, join'd to the Induſtry and enterpriſing Spirit now ſtirring amongſt foreign Nations in Trade, menaces Ruin and Deſtruction to our native Country, where cou'd we better look for wiſdom, than in the long Experience of one, who, by Order, and proper Meaſures, hath from a ſmall

a ſmall Village made * a noble Town equal to Cities, and hath ſhewn, that the barren Wilds of *Cumberland* can be enriched, by fetching minerals out of the Bowels of the Earth, whilſt Agriculture fertilizes the Surface. Fiſhing ſeizes the ſcaly Legions of the Deep, and Navigation carrying all theſe Produces to proper Markets, enriches the whole.

A Chamber under your Auſpices, has made a Dividend out of the Gains of their Fiſhery, whilſt the Society in *London*, for want of your directing Oeconomy, have call'd for, and loſt four times as much as the others have gain'd and divided. After the Year 1720, the new Directors of the *South Sea*, who profeſs'd their Averſion to, and roſe upon the Ruins of thoſe who had hurt Mankind by Stock-Jobbing, theſe new Directors fell upon another Plan of private Gain, and publick Loſs, the Company had a moſt advantageous Priviledge of Trade, but their Servants grew rich, whilſt the Company loſt; Supercargoes were worth their Plumes, whilſt the Eſtates of the Proprietors were every Day declining. You ſaw the Evil, provided the Remedy, and purſued it; you made them divide the trading Stock from the Annuitants, whereby the Stock of the Annuitants became more valuable than the trading Stock, notwithſtanding the Deluſion of a profitable Trade, which was unprofitable to the Company, as all Trades muſt be

* *Whitehaven* in *Cumberland.*

to the *Proprietors* of Companies. This had a farther Effect, the *Proprietors* of the trading Stock grew tired of their Priviledges, and gave them up, and the Stock, which, whilſt it had the Priviledge of an excluſive Trade to the *Weſt Indies*, was from 102 to 105, has of late floated from 115 to 120; therefore the *Proprietors* were benefited, by delivering up their Trade, tho' their *Directors* and Servants cannot get Plumes.

You remember, Sir, when the *Eaſt India* Company's *Charter* was diſputed in Parliament, and all the various Arts us'd on that Occaſion. Their Stock now conſiſts of 3,200,000 *l.* upon this they divide 8 *per Cent*; and their Stock is now 186 or 87; the Government pays them 3 *per Cent.* upon that 3,200,000 *l.* which they lent to them, ſuppoſing that in Lieu of their excluſive Trade, the Nation ſhould give them 3 *per Cent.* more, which is 96,000 a Year, whereby the Proprietors would have 6 *per Cent.* Annuity yearly, which upon the ſame Footing as the other Annuities, would make their Stock worth 200, which is now worth only 187; therefore the *Proprietors* would get 13 upon 100 *l.* Stock (upon this Calculation, I ſuppoſe that the Effects of the Company will pay their Bonds and other Debts.) By this all the People of *England* and *Scotland* wou'd get the Liberty of uſing their Induſtry in the *Eaſt Indies*, which would increaſe infinitely the Exports, and conſequently

the Employment of the People of *Great Britain.* It wou'd alſo increaſe the Imports in one Article which we know, of Tea, ſeveral of our rival foreign *Eaſt India* Companies ſubſiſt by running Teas into *England*; but free Traders wou'd bring Tea ſo cheap, that Foreigners could not afford Running; and conſequently would break the foreign Companies, and ſave to the Kingdom that Sum, and the Revenues would be increaſed by the Duties; and even this, great as it is, would be but an inconſiderable Object, in Compariſon of the great Number of Markets that would be opened by private Induſtry.

1. There is *one very ſerious Objection* may be made to this, that it may prevent the GLORY of the Kingdom. We know that GREECE was raiſed to the higheſt Pitch of GLORY, by *Alexander*'s conquering of *India*; therefore if the *Military Genius* ſhould increaſe amongſt the DIRECTORS, and they ſhould go a *conquering Indoſtan*, the *Engliſh* GLORY may then emulate that of the *Macedons.*

2. Another Inconveniency may ariſe; the DIRECTORS and Servants of the Company would not get *Plumes.*

But on the other Side, the *Proprietors* would have the Advantage of ſecuring their Property, and their *Eſtates* would not then depend upon the precarious Battles of a *Nabob.* A *Mooriſh Army* beaten in *India*, may chance to fall the Stocks ſo much *per Cent.* as A YOUNG GIRL may

may loſe her *Fortune*, her Lover, and her Marriage.

It may be ſaid, Where will the Money be found to ſatisfy this additional Intereſt of 96,000 *l.* a Year? I ſay, it may be had by laying additional Duties on *Eaſt India* Goods, amounting not only to that Sum, but to any other that ſhall be neceſſary for removing the Excluſion, and defraying his Majeſty's Expences for a good Military Eſtabliſhment in *Eaſt India*, by Sea and Land; the *free Traders* will be able to pay a much higher Duty than the Company can, ſince they will be free of all the Charges of DIRECTORS, *Governors*, *Officers*, Perqueſites, *&c.* which all Companies muſt labour under.

It may be objected, that the Trade requires the keeping of *Forts* and maintaining a War in *India*; if ſo, it is a very *unfit* Situation for a *Company*, whoſe Conſtitution is not form'd for WAR. It is but a ſmall Part of the *Indies*, where the Company have *Forts*, it is only in the Neighbourhood of *Indoſtan*; that is to ſay, *Bombay*, ſome Forts on the Coaſt of *Malabar*, *Madaraſs*, *Bengal*, and the little Fort at *Bencoolen* upon the Iſland of *Sumatra*, and ſome other ſmall ones, beſides the Iſland of St. *Helena*. At preſent the *Revenues* ariſing from their Territories maintains them, and would do ſo, if they were in his Majeſty's Hands, in Time of Peace; and if there is a WAR, we ſee that the *Nation* muſt be at the

Expence of ſending Fleets and Troops upon extraordinary Occaſions; therefore if the Nation is to be at the Charge of defending the Trade, they ought not to be *excluded* from the *Benefit of that which they defend.*

I only ſuggeſt theſe, with profound Humility, that they may excite you to extend your Thoughts to the *Eaſt India* Company, and that you would apply your great Wiſdom and Influence, to reſcue the Proprietors thereof, as you did thoſe of the *South Sea*. I am,

SIR,

Your moſt obedient humble Servant.

A Letter

A Letter to the People of Britain.

THE EAST INDIAN TRADE, is not only of vaſt Importance to the *Proprietors*, but alſo to the *Publick*. Therefore as a great Queſtion relating to that Company, is now in Agitation (*and upon which the Succeſs of the Company and the very Being of the Trade may depend*) it is neceſſary to ſatisfy the Curioſity of the Publick on this Head.

There was a *Charter* granted to the *Eaſt India Company*, many Diſputes aroſe about it, which came before Parliament; all Arts were uſed to corrupt or delude the Members; amongſt others, a *Tyger was baited* with Solemnity, on the Day the great Queſtion was to come on. This was ſuch a Novelty, that ſeveral of the Members were drawn off from their Attendance, and abſent on the Diviſion; ſome *Members* were alſo expelled the Houſe for *Bribery*; but this was long ago, in King *William*'s Reign. At laſt an Act of Parliament was obtained by Way of Compromiſe, between the old Company, *the new Company, and the ſeparate Traders*, by which an excluſive Trade was granted for a Term of Years

to

to the united Company, for trading to the *East Indies*.

It is underſtood, that they have the ſole *Monopoly* of trading to the Eaſt of the *Cape of Good Hope*; but this is a very large and uncertain Deſcription of their Bounds; for as the World is round, they might go to the Eaſt of the *Cape of Good Hope*, if no Land interveened, till they came unto it again; and at that Rate *Chili*, *Peru*, and *America* would be within their *Monopoly*. Therefore this muſt certainly be a vulgar Error, and there muſt be other Bounds preſcribed by the *Charter*; but what they are, I cannot tell, having never had the Opportunity of ſeeing it. *But probably it does not extend to the* Molucca Iſlands, *the* Spice Iſlands, *or the* Philippians*; for I do not find that, ſince the *Act of Parliament* †, the Company ever traded to any of thoſe Places; and yet the Advantage would be very great; and the *Directors are ſo anxious for the Good of their Proprietors*, and of the Company, that they would not have neglected, were it within their Charter. *For the ſame Reaſon*, I am apt to ſuppoſe, their *Monopoly* does not extend to *New Guiney*, *New Britain*, the *Iſle of Sabada*, and other Iſlands, which Capt. *Dampier* ſailed round in one of the Men of War, and on which he landed about the Year 1700, and where he met with Gold,

* Q. If the Charter extends to thoſe Places.
† Reaſon why it does not.

Nut-

Nutmegs, *&c.* *For the ſame Reaſon* one alſo might ſuppoſe, that *Corea* and *Japan* are not within the Company's *Charter*, becauſe they never traded to either of them, ſince the Act of Parliament.

Theſe various Regions afford the richeſt Commodities, Gold, Jewels, Spices, Pearls and Drugs of the moſt valuable Kind. In the *Philippian Iſlands* lies the City of *Manilia*, one of the richeſt in the Eaſt: There is a Ship goes from thence yearly to *Aquapulca*, worth 500,000. *l.* It was one of their Ships MY LORD ANSON took. It may be ſaid, that all the *Spice Iſlands* belong to the *Dutch*, but that is a Miſtake; ſome of them, the *Dutch* are in Poſſeſſion of, particularly AMBOINA; and every *Engliſhman muſt abhor the Method by which they got that Trade*, and the *horrid* Cruelties they committed on the *Engliſh* there. With Reſpect to others, they do not belong to them, particularly *Mindano*, where Captain *Dampier* and Captain *Swan* lived for ſome Time. This is ruled by an independant Monarch, who invited Captain *Swan*, who commanded the *Signet*, a Ship fitted out by ſome private Merchants of *London*, *a free Engliſh trading Ship*, to come and ſettle there.

All theſe rich Regions would afford a vaſt Field to *Engliſh* Induſtry, many *Hundreds of Ships* might be employed, and many Millions gained. It remains to our Superiors to judge, whether they are within the *Company's Charter*;

no

no body would desire to hurt the Company or the *Proprietors*; but no Hurt can arise to either, by trading to Places which the Company will not trade to.

An Enquiry now upon Foot led me to publish these Matters, and at the same Time I must testify my *Abhorrence* of every Attempt, towards abridging the *legal Rights* of the Company, or doing any Injury unto them; and I heartily wish that no Evil Counsellor may ever prevail with them, to injure themselves, by turning a trading Company, into a *Military* fighting one.

To

To Miſs A——, *who has Intereſt in the* Eaſt India *Stock.*

MADAM,

ONE who has Eyes and a Heart, cannot refuſe anſwering ſo fair a Lady; I ſhall write you the Truth, and the whole Truth, though it may perhaps diſoblige ſome of the Great.

Your All in the Company depends upon the *wiſe* or *fooliſh* Management of your *Directors*; their Wiſdom was viſible in the Loſs of *Madraſs:* And after that it was by the Peace delivered to us again, the Spirit of *Heroiſm* came ſtrong upon them, they would engage in a new War as Auxiliaries to the Blacks; the Company was almoſt ruined by the victorious *French*, when the brave CLIVE, and us who followed him, redeemed your Affairs. But the wiſe and heroic *Directors*, not content with Victory, ſcorned mean Submiſſion and low pacific Meaſures, and with the Magnanimity of a *Roman Senate*, perſiſt in War, *War, a genteel and honourable Profeſſion*, but which your *rich Merchants* were formerly ſuch Clowns as to avoid; but this Age is ſo improved, that our *Directors* are more mag-

nanimous. A Merchent ſubſiſts and grows rich by exchanging what one Nation wants, for that with which another abounds, is thanked by both, and gets by the Bargain. A *Soldier* takes all by Force, is oppoſed even to Death, deſtroys twice as much as he gets, and, if he is not kill'd or hang'd before, dies in an Hoſpital. This is your regular Soldier, according to the modern Military Diſcipline, and the *Act of Mutiny and Deſertion.* As for your regular Officer, if he is rich, he can beſt tell you, whether it was got by Pay, Cloathing, or Plunder, gained in the laſt *Conqueſts* in *Flanders*. You will perhaps ſay then, Why was I a Soldier? There are two Kinds of Soldiers; the regular one, who is curb'd by the Mutiny and Deſertion Act, and another Kind of Soldier, who ſerves, becauſe he chuſes to defend the Laws, Liberties and Properties of the Community of which he is a Member: Theſe Soldiers are like MARCUS, if they fall.

———— *the gallant Youth,*
Who bravely in his Country's Cauſe expir'd,
Shall know he conquer'd————

CATO.

This Kind of Soldier you have now in the *Eaſt Indies*; this Kind of Soldier, led by the *valiant* CLIVE, beat the *French*, and the vaſt Armies of the *Moors* and *Indians* under the

the *French* NABOB. Theſe fight for Freedom, becauſe they are free, and would not bear to live under ſlaviſh Rule. Had ſuch an Act ſubſiſted, when the Merchants, Writers, and all the Factors, took Arms and beat the Enemy, they who faced Death for Freedom, would not have ſubmitted to have been Slaves, and to be *whipp'd*, by the Judgement of three Officers, Men perhaps neither wiſer nor braver than themſelves. Judge therefore, whether you would rather have your Property defended by ſuch Irregulars as conquered, or ſuch Regulars as were laſt War in *Flanders*. I was not in *Flanders*, I ſerved in *India*, becauſe War ſtopt Trade, therefore fought to ſtop War, that Trade might go on. Your Mutiny and Deſertion Soldier is not to judge why he fights, and only thinks how to get rid of Chains; he wiſhes a Defeat, that when his Officers run away, he may deſert; and they muſt die or run, if none under their Command will fight. The forc'd Soldier looks at his Officer as his Enemy, and on his Country's Enemies as his Friends, coming to deliver him from the Service he loaths.

If the Increaſe of Power, and the Perquiſites ariſing from War, ſhould flatter the Ambition and Avarice of the *Leadenhall Heroes*, ſo as they ſhould go on with War, certain *Ruin* muſt attend the *Stock*; if you conquer, the Charge of the War will be more than the Benefit of your Trade will pay; and there's no

need of telling you the Conſequence of being conquered.

I have dealt freely with you, dear Miſs; and have given you this Inſtance of my ſincere Affection, ſince I expoſe myſelf to the ill Conſequences of the *implacable Reſentment* of thoſe who delight in WAR, and know the Sweets that ariſe from one in *India*. I am,

MADAM,

Your moſt obedient humble Servant.

To

*To the Honourable *** · ***, Eſq; one of the *** of ***.*

THE *Eaſt India* Trade is of ſuch Conſequence, that the higheſt Regard ſhould be paid to it. And therefore it is proper, that all the *Counties*, *Cities* and *Boroughs* of *England*, ſhould be informed how they, in particular, would reap a Benefit, in common with the reſt of the People of *England*, by extending this Trade. And they would obtain this great End, would each *County*, *City* and *Borough*, reſpectively, *deſire their Candidates to enquire into this Matter*, and to uſe their Endeavours for enlarging the Trade. If that Trade were enlarged, it would increaſe ſuch a Demand for Woolen Goods, for Iron Ware, and for every other Branch of Buſineſs in *England*, as would employ all the Manufacturers, who are now ſtarving, and thereby relieve the Poor, by making them no longer ſo; and this would be a noble Means of leſſening, if not diſcharging the *Pariſhes from the Poor Tax*.

This might be demonſtrated, by the many Places that are not yet traded to by the *Engliſh*. The Company trades in the *Red Sea* but to one Port, that is, *Moca*; but the *Habazine*'s *Empire*,

Empire, or ETHIOPIA, which lies on the Weſt Side of that Sea, is not attempted to be traded to, altho' it is inhabited by *Chriſtians*, and abounding with Gold, Myrrh, Sena, Alloes, Civet, and Numbers of rich Dying and Medicinal Drugs, and other Commodities; and they have no Iron nor Woolen Goods, but what is carried to them over Land from *Egypt* or *Turkey*, and which is moſtly manufactured by the *French*, or at *Damaſcus*. The Company doth not trade to *Syam*, a rich and great Kingdom; nor to *Pegu*, a Kingdom that produces Rubies, Gum Lac, Gum Dragon, and all the Materials of the fine *Indian* Varniſh: The Inhabitants are very induſtrious, and great Trade might be made there. *Tonkin* is alſo a Kingdom full of induſtrious People; and the Kingdom of *Cochin China* would give Vent to a great Number of Commodities. The Kingdoms of *Japan*, and *Corea*, are amongſt the richeſt in the World; and with theſe the *Eaſt India* Company, have no Commerce; and yet they abound in raw Silk, Gold, Silver, Spice Goods, Tea, Purſlin, Japan, &c. nor need the Company ſtrive to gain Acceſs, ſince the Company have more Trade than they can turn their Hands to.

Thoſe many *Spice Iſlands*, unpoſſeſſed by the *Dutch*, and MINDANO, and other Iſlands near the *Philippians*, unpoſſeſſed by the *Spaniards*, are a glorious Field of Induſtry for the *Engliſh*; Numbers of Adventurers might make

their

their Fortune by ſuch a Trade, hundreds of Ships be employed, and vaſt Sums brought home, in Gold, Silver, and rich Goods, in Payment for our Manufactures.

It is neceſſary for us to think of theſe Things; for if we do not, the PRUSIANS, or others, will, the Gain being ſo great, and the Company cannot uſe their *Charter* againſt *Foreigners, who are ſo ſaucy as not to obey an* English *Act of Parliament.* I am,

SIR,

Your moſt obedient humble Servant.

To

To —— B——, *Esq*; *one of the Aldermen of the City of* London.

SIR,

AS you have ſhewn yourſelf a Pattern of Liberty, and Encourager of Trade, I take the Liberty of mentioning to you the Anſwer that may be given to thoſe who ſay, that if the *Eaſt India* Company were to give up their *Monopoly*, in Conſideration of being paid by the Publick, the Trade could not be carried on by Free Merchants.

Every one knows, that the Trade to *China* may be carried on from *Britain* directly, as it is from *Sweden*, and that, without a Company, the ſame may be done from all other Parts, except where the Company has Forts. As for thoſe I would only ſuggeſt, that if St. *Helena*, *Bombay* and *Madraſs*, were each of them, with their Dependancies, created into a ſeparate Colony, with a Governor, appointed by his Majeſty, to be aſſiſted by a Council and Aſſembly, choſen by the People, as in *America*, they would make as rich and as flouriſhing Colonies as *Virginia*, or *Jamaica*; ſince their Trade and Commodities are of more Value. And if the *free Merchants* who

who are now there, together with all other *Britons*, who ſhould go thither hereafter, were incorporated with the *Black Merchants*, who are exceſſive rich, and with the *Black Artizans*, who are ſober and induſtrious, thoſe Colonies would grow up, in a very ſhort Time, to ſuch a Height, as hardly can be conceived; they would be ſo far from wanting a *Monopolizing Company*, that they would not only be able to defray their own Charges, but give Aſſiſtance towards paying off the National Debt. Think what a Reſort of People would be to any Part of *India*, where there were *good Laws*, *Liberty*, and *Property* eſtabliſhed; and where there was a mild Government, and *free Trade*. I hope you will excuſe my taking this Liberty, and believe me to be,

SIR,

Your moſt obedient humble Servant.

To ——, *Merchant in* Edinburgh.

SIR,

I AM to return you Thanks for the Books you ſent me, containing the Attempts of the Scots Nation before the Union, to open a Trade to the *Eaſt Indies*, and *America*, particularly their Settlement upon the *Darien*, and the barbarous Treatment thoſe Adventurers met with from *England*.

Certainly the then *Engliſh* Miniſtry were as weak as they were wicked; for had the *Scots* maintained the *Iſthmus* of *Darien*, and a free Paſſage between the North and South Seas, within a Colony of their own, *Britain* would have been ſo powerful in *America*, as would have prevented the *French* from breaking the Treaty of *Ryſwick*; and conſequently would have hindered thoſe Wars, which has brought this Nation 80,000,000 *l.* in Debt.

I entirely agree with you, " that if *Scotland* " had the Liberty of trading to all Parts of " the *Globe*, they, by the Cheapneſs of their " Labour, and the Number of their hardy " and induſtrious Men, could undertrade Fo- " reigners, and could open many Markets, " that are at preſent unthought of; and that

" this

" this would increaſe the Shipping and Wealth " of *Great Britain* to an immenſe Degree."

When you lament, that *Scotland* is deprived of thoſe Advantages, I muſt acquaint you, that *England* is ſo alſo, at leaſt all the *free Merchants*. Theſe Hindrances flow from the Interpretation of monopolizing Companies at home, and foreign Princes abroad: For Example, the King of *Spain* pretends, that we ſhall not ſend Ships, nor trade to the *South Seas*; but I do not know of any Law that prohibits the *Scots* from trading there. Whilſt the *South Sea* Company ſubſiſted, they had a Monopoly; but now that is over, and by great good Fortune, that Company trades no more. Therefore if a *Scots* Ship went into the *South Sea*, and traded there, and avoided being taken by the *Spaniſh Guarda Coſtcs*, all the Gain that they brought home to *Britain*, might be enjoyed by the adventrous and induſtrious Merchants and Mariners that acquired it.

What you mention about the *Philippians* and *Japan*, is, I believe, very true, and agrees with what I have heard at *Batavia* from *Dutch* Merchants, who had been at thoſe Places; to be ſure, a Cargo of Spices may be procured at very eaſy Rates, on thoſe Iſlands, where the *Dutch* have no Claim, and which they cannot prevent our trading to. Such a Cargo, with proper Aſſortments of *Engliſh* Iron Ware, Woolen Goods, Glaſs, Mathematical Inſtruments, Toys, Fire Arms, &c. would procure

 a much

a much richer Cargo from *Japan*. It is generally given out, that the *Japanese* are forbid trading with all Foreigners; it was so formerly, when the *Christian Religion*, had made a great Progress amongst the *Japanese*, the *Pagans* raised most horrible Persecutions, and as they murdered all those who would not renounce Christianity, they prohibited *Spanish* and *Portuguese Christians* from trading there, lest they should support the Remainders of the concealed *Christians*, who had learned their Religion from the *Spanish* and *Portuguese* Priests; but even in the rage of those Persecutions, they permitted the *Dutch* and the *English* also to trade there; and Mr. *Adams*, an *Englishman*, continued in *Japan* and in Favour at Court, long after the Expulsion of Foreigners. The *Dutch* continue their Trade there to this Day; and it is looked upon at *Batavia* as the most advantageous Branch they have in *India*, not excepting the Spices, tho' the Spices make a great part of the Cargo, with which they purchase the *Japanese* Goods. The *English* lost the Trade by neglecting it, during *Cromwell*'s Civil Wars; after the Restoration, there was a Ship sent to renew the Trade; she was very kindly received, but the *Dutch* informed the *Japanese*, that King *Charles* was married to the King of *Portugal*'s Sister: The Court ordered the Ship to go away, because they would not trade with People, whose King was so nearly related to the *Portuguese*.

You'll

You'll find this Account at large in *Harris*'s Voyages; and I can assure you, that the *Dutch* are well satisfied, that the Court of *Japan* would not refuse Licence to any *European* Prince, except the *Spanish* and *Portuguese*, to trade there; and the *Dutch* are so jealous of this, that they suffer no Pilot, who has ever been at *Japan*, to leave *Batavia*, lest they should fall into the Hands of any other Prince. They also spread dreadful Reports of the Severity of the *Japanese* against Strangers, but it is certain, that if a Ship of any Country was to go to some of the Ports at the East End of *Japan*, because the *Dutch* are settled at the West End, and, being provided with proper Interpreters, who may be easily had either in *China*, or the *Philippian* Islands, they might obtain Licence of Trade from the Court; for without Licence it is certain they could not trade.

The great and only real Objection in attempting this most beneficial Trade is, that the *East India* Company claim an exclusive Trade to *Japan*; and you ask me, whether I think that Exclusion reaches to Ships fitted out from *Edinburgh* and *Glasgow*. I am not a Lawyer, and have not the Acts of Parliament; upon the Words of which that Matter must depend. This I know, that the Company never traded to *Japan* since their *Charter* was confirmed by Act of Parliament; and, surely, if they thought it within their *Charter* they would have certainly attempted that Trade,

which

which is much more advantageous than any they now carry on.

I join with you in thinking, that trading to thoſe far Countries would be the making of *Scotland*, and that *Glaſgow* and *Edinburgh*, and every other Town, might carry it on to their great Advantage. With Reſpect to the Doubt that you ſtart, the only Meaſure that I could think of is, that the *Cities*, *Counties*, and *Boroughs of North Britain* ſhould apply to their Members, that they ſhould, in the next Parliament, deſire an Explanation of what Parts of the Globe *the People of North Britain* are debarred trading to, by *Charters* granted before the UNION, or by Acts of Parliament made before or ſince; or whether the Subjects born and dwelling in *North Britain* and *Ireland*, are bound by an Act, unleſs it ſhould mention thoſe Countries particularly. You ſee, Sir, I am punctual to your Order, and have not ſpared Paper; and am glad of this, and ſhall be ſo of any farther Occaſion of ſhewing how much I am,

SIR,

Your moſt obedient humble Servant.

FINIS.